

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A PC (personal computer) camera adapted to operate as a digital camera and a digital audio reproducing apparatus both independently of, and in connection with various applications a PC, comprising:

a first on/off switch for opening and closing a lens cap;
a second switch for detecting whether the camera is, or is not, connected to the PC;

a video conferencing mode of camera operation;
a digital mode of camera operation for photographing a still image;
a still image transmission mode of camera operation;
a memory means for storing digital audio and video data; and
a controller that determines that the camera (1) is in a still image transmission mode when the first switch is off and the second switch is on; (2) is in the digital mode of camera operation for photographing a still image when the first switch is on and the second switch is off; and (3) is in the videoconferencing mode when the first and second switches are on.

~~a digital audio decoding means for reproducing an original sound by decoding the digital audio data stored on the memory means in a digital audio reproducing mode of the PC camera.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 1, wherein the PC camera further comprises a digital audio decoding apparatus for decoding digital audio data in a digital reproduction mode of the camera and storing means for storing the digital audio data from the PC ~~on the memory means~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 1, wherein the PC camera automatically switches into the digital audio reproducing mode when an earphone is inserted into the PC camera.

4. (Currently Amended) A PC (personal computer) camera ~~with various applications~~ comprising:

- a viewfinder for recognizing a direction and range of a photographing object;

- a memory means for storing a photographed compressed image and digital audio data;

- an image processing means for transmitting a picture-processed photographing image signal to a PC coupled to the PC camera in a video conference mode, storing the picture-processed photographing image signal on the memory means after compressing the image signal in a digital camera mode, transmitting the compressed image signal stored on the memory means to the PC in a still image transmission mode;

- a digital audio decoding means for reproducing an original sound by decoding the digital audio data stored on the memory means when a digital audio reproducing mode is set in the PC camera; and

- a control means for controlling the operation corresponding to the pertinent mode after judging if the PC camera is in the video conference mode,

the digital camera mode, the still image transmission mode or the digital audio reproducing mode.

5. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 4, wherein the image processing means stores the digital audio data from the PC on the memory means.

6. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 4,

wherein the control means judges and determines a mode change to the digital audio reproducing mode when an earphone is inserted into the PC camera in a state in which a lens cap of the PC camera is closed.

7. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 6, wherein the PC camera comprises a switch inside of an earphone jack, the switch being turned on when the earphone is inserted into the PC camera, which in turn turns on the digital audio reproducing mode.

8. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 4, wherein the PC camera further comprises additional memory means for storing the photographed image and digital audio data, the additional memory means being detachable from and attachable to the PC camera.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 4, wherein the PC camera further comprises a wireless communication means for converting a photographed image or a compressed

image stored on the memory means into a wireless signal and transmitting it the wireless signal to the PC.

11. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 4, wherein a USB standard is used for data input/output between the PC and the PC camera.

12. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 10, wherein the wireless communication means stores the digital audio data received from the PC through a wireless communication on the memory means.

13. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 4, wherein the PC camera further comprises a second display for displaying an image photographed at the present in addition to a first display for displaying a subject to be photographed.

14. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various application~~ according to claim 4, wherein the PC camera further comprises a plurality of adjustment buttons for switching into the video conference mode or the digital camera mode or the digital audio reproducing mode, for starting photographing in the digital camera mode, for selecting music in the digital audio reproducing mode, and for selecting functions including a reproducing start function and a volume adjustment function.

15. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 14, wherein the PC camera further comprises a hold key for invalidating a function buttons of non-selected modes.

16. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

first detecting means for detecting whether the PC camera is electrically separated from a PC; and

mode switching means for automatically switching the PC camera to one of different modes of the PC camera based on the detection result.

17. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 16, wherein the first detecting means includes one of the following:

a switch disposed at an area where the PC camera mates with a holder for the PC camera; or

a detector detecting a receipt of a USB standard signal from the PC.

18. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 16, further comprising:

second detecting means for detecting a use state of a lens of the PC camera.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A PC (personal computer) camera ~~with various applications according to claim 18,~~ further comprising:

a memory means for storing digital audio data; and

a digital audio decoding means for reproducing an original sound by decoding the digital audio data stored on the memory means in a digital audio reproducing mode of the PC camera;

first detecting means for detecting whether the PC camera is electrically separated from a PC;

wherein the first detecting means includes one of the following:

a switch disposed at an area where the PC camera mates with a holder for the PC camera, or

a detector detecting a receipt of a USB standard signal from the PC;

mode switching means for automatically switching the PC camera to one of different modes of the PC camera based on the detection result; and

second detecting means for detecting a use state of a lens of the PC camera; and

wherein the mode switching means places the PC camera in a digital camera mode to use the PC camera as a handheld camera apart from the PC, if the first detecting means detects that the PC camera is electrically separated from the PC and if the second detecting means detects that the lens of the PC camera is in a use state.

20. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 18, wherein the mode switching means places the PC camera in a still image transmission mode if the first detecting means detects that the PC camera is electrically connected to the PC and if the second detecting means detects that the lens of the PC camera is not in a use state.

21. (Currently Amended) The PC camera ~~with various applications~~ according to claim 1, wherein the digital audio data are MP3 audio data downloaded by a PC coupled to the PC camera through a network.

22. (Currently Amended) A The PC camera of claim 1, further comprising:
a detector to detect if the PC camera is electrically connected to a PC,
wherein the PC camera operates as a handheld digital camera used independently from the PC if the detector detects that the PC camera is electrically separated from the PC.

23. (Currently Amended) The PC camera according to claim 22 1, ~~wherein the detector includes a~~ wherein the second switch is disposed at an area where the PC camera mates with a holder for the PC camera.

24. (Currently Amended) The PC camera according to claim 22 1, wherein the ~~detector~~ camera is adapted to detects a receipt of a USB signal from the PC.

25. (Currently Amended) The PC camera according to claim 22 1, further comprising:

a player to play back MP3 audio data downloaded from the PC.

26. (New) The PC camera of claim 1, further comprising:

a viewfinder for recognizing a direction and range of a photographing object;

a memory means for storing a photographed compressed image and digital audio data;

an image processing means for transmitting a picture-processed photographing image signal to a PC coupled to the PC camera in a video conference mode, storing the picture-processed photographing image signal on the memory means after compressing the image signal in a digital camera mode, transmitting the compressed image signal stored on the memory means to the PC in a still image transmission mode;

a digital audio decoding means for reproducing an original sound by decoding the digital audio data stored on the memory means when a digital audio reproducing mode is set in the PC camera; and

a control mean for controlling the operation corresponding to the pertinent mode after judging if the PC camera is in the video conference mode,

the digital camera mode, the still image transmission mode or the digital audio reproducing mode.

27. (New) The PC camera of claim 1, wherein the first switch is on when the lens cap is open and is off when the lens cap is closed.

28. (New) The PC camera of claim 1, wherein the second switch is on when the camera is connected to the PC and the second switch is off when the camera is not connected to the PC.

29. (New) The PC camera of claim 1, further comprising a standby mode of camera operation.

30. (New) The PC camera of claim 1, further comprising a digital audio reproduction mode of camera operation.